

HIS LOVE STORY

By MARIE VAN VORST

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RAY WALTERS

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SYNOPSIS.

Le Comte de Sabron, captain of French cavalry, takes to his quarters to raise by hand a motherless Irish terrier pup, and names it Pitchoune. He dines with the Marquise d'Esclignac and meets Miss Julia Redmond, American heiress. He is ordered to Algeria but is not allowed to take servants or dogs. Miss Redmond takes care of Pitchoune, who, longing for his master, runs away from her. The Marquise plans to marry Julia to the Duc de Tremont. Pitchoune follows Sabron to Algeria, dog and master meet, and Sabron gets permission to keep his dog with him. The Duc de Tremont finds the American heiress capricious. Sabron, wounded in an engagement, falls into the dry bed of a river and is watched over by Pitchoune. After a horrible night and day Pitchoune leaves him. Tremont takes Julia and the Marquise to Algeria in his yacht but has doubts about Julia's Red Cross mission. After long search Julia gets trace of Sabron's whereabouts. Julia, for the moment turns matchmaker in behalf of Tremont. Hammet Abou tells the Marquise where he thinks Sabron may be found.

CHAPTER XXI—Continued.

Pitchoune ran with his nose to the ground. There were several trails for a dog to follow on that apparently untrodden page of desert history. Which one would he choose? Without a scent a dog does nothing. His nostrils are his instinct. His devotion, his faithfulness, his intelligence, his heart—all come through his nose. A man's heart, they say, is in his stomach—or in his pocket. A dog's is in his nostrils. If Pitchoune had chosen the wrong direction, this story would never have been written. Michette did not give birth to the sixth puppy, in the stables of the garrison, for nothing. Nor had Sabron saved him on the night of the memorable dinner for nothing.

With his nose flat to the sands Pitchoune smelt to east and to west, to north and south, took a scent to the east, decided on it—for what reason will never be told—and followed it. Fatigue and hunger were forgotten as hour after hour Pitchoune ran across the Sahara. Mercifully, the sun had been clouded by the precursor of a windstorm. The air was almost cool. Mercifully, the wind did not arise until the little terrier had pursued his course to the end.

There are occasions when an animal's intelligence surpasses the human. When, toward evening of the twelve hours that it had taken him to reach a certain point, he came to a settlement of mud huts on the borders of an oasis, he was pretty nearly at the end of his strength. The oasis was the only sign of life in five hundred miles. There was very little left in his small body. He lay down, panting, but his bright spirit was unwilling just then to leave his form and hovered near him. In the religion of Tatman dogs alone have souls.

Pitchoune panted and dragged himself to a pool of water around which the green palms grew, and he drank and drank. Then the little desert wayfarer hid himself in the bushes and slept till morning. All night he was racked with convulsive twitches, but he slept and in his dreams he killed a young chicken and ate it. In the morning he took a bath in the pool, and the sun rose while he swam in the water.

If Sabron or Miss Redmond could have seen him he would have seen the epitome of heartless egoism. He was the epitome of wisdom. Instinct and wisdom sometimes go closely together. Solomon was only instinctive when he asked for wisdom. The epicurean Lucullus, when dying, asked for a certain Nile fish cooked in wine.

Pitchoune shook out his short shaggy body and came out of the oasis pool into the sunlight and trotted into the Arabian village.

Fatou Anni parched corn in a brazier before her house. Her house was a mud hut with yellow walls. It had no roof and was open to the sky. Fatou Anni was ninety years old, straight as a lance—straight as one of the lances the men of the village carried when they went to dispute with white people. These lances with which the young men had fought, had won them the last battle. They had been victorious on the field.

Fatou Anni was the grandmother of many men. She had been the mother of many men. Now she parched corn tranquilly, prayerfully.

"Allah! that the corn should not burn; Allah! that it should be sweet; Allah! that her men should be always successful."

She was the fetish of the settlement. In a single blue garment, her black scrawny breast uncovered, the thin veil that the Fellahs wear pushed back from her face, her fine eyes were revealed and she might have been a priestess as she bent over her corn!

"Allah! Allah Akbar!"
Rather than anything should happen to Fatou Anni, the settlement would have roasted its enemies alive, torn them in shreds. Some of them said that she was two hundred years old. There was a charmed ring drawn around her face. People supposed that if any creature crossed it unwitting, it would fall dead.

The sun had risen for an hour and the air was still cool. Overhead, the

sky, unstained by a single cloud, was blue as a turquoise floor, and against it, black and portentous, flew the vultures. Here and there the sun-touched pools gave life and reason to the oasis.

Fatou Anni parched her corn. Her barbaric chant was interrupted by a sharp bark and a low pleading whine.

She had never heard sounds just like that. The dogs of the village were great wolflike creatures. Pitchoune's bark was angelic compared with theirs. He crossed the charmed circle drawn around her house, and did not fall dead, and stood before her, whining. Fatou Anni left her corn, stood upright and looked at Pitchoune. To her the Irish terrier was an apparition. The fact that he had not fallen dead proved that he was beloved of Allah. He was, perhaps, a genie, an afrit.

Pitchoune fawned at her feet. She murmured a line of the Koran. It did not seem to affect his demonstrative affection. The woman bent down to him after making a pass against the Evil Eye, and touched him, and Pitchoune licked her hand.

Fatou Anni screamed, dropped him, went into the house and made her ablutions. When she came out Pitchoune sat patiently before the parched corn, and he again came crawling to her.

The Arabian woman lived in the last hut of the village. She could satisfy her curiosity without shocking her neighbors. She bent down to scrutinize Pitchoune's collar. There was a sacred medal on it with sacred inscriptions which she could not read.

But as soon as she had freed him this time, Pitchoune tore himself away from her, flew out of the sacred ring and disappeared. The he ran back, barking appealingly; he took the hem of her dress in his mouth and pulled her. He repeatedly did this and the superstitious Arabian believed herself to be called divinely. She cautiously left the doorstep, her veil falling before her face, came out of the sacred ring, followed to the edge of the berry field. From there Pitchoune sped over the desert; when he stopped and looked back at her. Fatou Anni did not follow, and he returned to renew his entreaties. When she tried to touch him he escaped, keeping at a safe distance. The village began to

stir. Blue and yellow garments fluttered in the streets.
"Allah Akbar," Fatou Anni murmured, "these are days of victory, of recompense."
She gathered her robe around her and, stately and impressively, started toward the huts of her grandsons. When she returned, eight young warriors, fully armed, accompanied her. Pitchoune sat beside the parched corn, watching the brazier and her meal. Fatou Anni pointed to the desert.
She said to the young men, "Go with this genie. There is something he wishes to show us. Allah is great."

When the Capitaine de Sabron opened his eyes in consciousness, they encountered a square of blazing blue heaven. He weakly put up his hand to shade his sight, and a cotton awning, supported by four bamboo poles, was swiftly raised over his head. He saw objects and took cognizance of them. On the floor in the low doorway of a mud hut sat three little naked children covered with flies and dirt. He was the guest of Fatou Anni. These were three of her hundred great-great-grandchildren. The babies were playing with a little dog. Sabron knew the dog but could not articulate his name. By his side sat the woman to whom he owed his life. Her veil fell over her face. She was trading straw. He looked at her intelligently. She brought him a drink of cool water in an earthen vessel, with the drops oozing from its porous sides. The hut reeked with odors which met his nostrils at every



Hour After Hour Pitchoune Ran Across the Sahara.

breath he drew. He asked in Arabic: "Where am I?"
"In the hut of victory," said Fatou Anni.

Pitchoune overheard the voice and came to Sabron's side. His master murmured:

"Where are we, my friend?"
The dog leaped on his bed and licked his face. Fatou Anni, with a whisk of straw, swept the flies from him. A great weakness spread its wings above him and he fell asleep.

Days are all alike to those who lie in mortal sickness. The hours are intensely colorless and they slip and slip into painful wakefulness, into fever, into drowsiness finally, and then into weakness.

The Capitaine de Sabron, although he had no family to speak of, did possess, unknown to the Marquise d'Esclignac, an old aunt in the provinces, and a handful of heartless cousins who were indifferent to him. Nevertheless he clung to life and in the hut of Fatou Anni fought for existence. Every time that he was conscious he struggled anew to hold to the thread of life. Whenever he grasped the thread he vanished, and whenever he lost it, he went down, down.

Fatou Anni cherished him. He was a soldier who had fallen in the battle against her sons and grandsons. He was a man and a strong one, and she despised women. He was her prey and he was her reward and she cared for him; as she did so, she became maternal.

His eyes which, when he was conscious, thanked her; his thin hands that moved on the rough blue robe thrown over him, the devotion of the dog—found a responsive chord in the great-grandmother's heart. Once he smiled at one of the naked, big-bellied great-great-grandchildren. Beni Haasau, three years old, came up to Sabron with his fingers in his mouth and chattered like a bird. This proved to Fatou Anni that Sabron had not the Evil Eye. No one but the children were admitted to the hut, but the sun and the flies and the cries of the village came in without permission, and now and then, when the winds arose, he could hear the stirring of the palm trees.

Sabron was reduced to skin and bone. His nourishment was insufficient, and the absence of all decent care was slowly taking him to death. It will never be known why he did not die.

Pitchoune took to making long excursions. He would be absent for days, and in his clouded mind Sabron thought the dog was reconnoitering for him over the vast pink sea without there—which, if one could sail across as in a ship, one would sail to France, through the walls of mellow old Tarascon, to the chateau of good King Rene; one would sail as the moon sails, and through an open window one might hear the sound of a woman's voice singing. The song, ever illusive and irritating in its persistency, tantalized his sick ears.

Sabron did not know that he would have found the chateau shut had he sailed there in the moon. It was as well that he did not know, for his wandering thought would not have known where to follow, and there was repose in thinking of the Chateau d'Esclignac.

It grew terribly hot. Fatou Anni, by his side, fanned him with a fan she had woven. The great-great-grandchildren on the floor in the mud fought together. They quarreled over bits of colored glass. Sabron's breath came panting. Without, he heard the cries of the warriors, the lance-bearers—he heard the cries of Fatou Anni's sons who were going out to battle. The French soldiers were in a distant part of the Sahara and Fatou Anni's grand children were going out to pillage and destroy. The old woman by his side cried out and beat her breast. Now and then she looked at him curiously, as if she saw death on his pale face. Now that all her sons and grandsons had gone, he was the only man left in the village, as even boys of sixteen had joined the raid. She wiped his forehead and gave him a potion that had been pierced with arrows. It was all she could do for a captive.

Toward sundown, for the first time Sabron felt a little better, and after twenty-four hours' absence, Pitchoune whined at the hut door, but would not come in. Fatou Anni called on Allah, left her patient and went out to see what was the matter with the dog. At the door, in the shade of a palm, stood two Bedouins.

ORCHARD GLEANINGS

SPRAY OUTFIT FOR ORCHARD

Choice of Machine Must Be Governed Largely by Number of Trees and Local Conditions.

Spray machines which get their pumping power from the wagon wheel are entirely inadequate to the present requirements for orchard spraying and are unsatisfactory where the size of the trees necessitates stopping in order to do thorough work. These machines are very useful, however, for spraying such crops as grapes, potatoes, tomatoes and the like.

The choice of a spraying machine must be governed largely by the size of the orchard and the conditions under which it is to be used. In an orchard of fifteen acres, if the trees are ten years old or more, a power machine will soon pay for itself in the saving of labor and the increased profits from more effective spraying. In large orchards there should be a sufficient number of machines to make an application in the course of six or

eight days if best results are to be realized.

In the selection of power outfits aside from efficiency, the chief points to be considered are weight, construction, mounting with reference to convenience of handling in the field and the accessories, such as agitators, rods, hose, nozzles, etc. Aside from the weight there is little difference in the desirability of the efficiency of standard makes, excepting as certain features of a particular machine may appeal to different individuals.

Plant Should Be Reduced to the Number of Plants That Will Grow in Vigorous Condition.

(By C. I. LEWIS, Ohio Experiment Station.)

Prune the gooseberry to a bush. Berries are borne on the two, three and four-year-old wood, but occasionally the fruit grows too small on the four-year-old wood and it should be pruned out. The currant bears most of its fruit on the two and three-year-old wood. All canes of either of these fruits should be cut out when they begin to droop toward the ground, and all canes that are weak.

The plant should be reduced to the number of plants that will grow in a vigorous condition. When canes tend to grow gnarly, old and weak, they should be removed. The entire planting should be renewed in from six to ten years.

While the bushes will fruit for a longer time, the fruit tends to grow too small to be profitable.

WHY WE PRUNE FRUIT TREES

Chief Objects of Operation Briefly Summed Up—Among Other Things Facilitates Harvesting.

The principal objects of pruning trees may be summed up briefly as follows:

1. To modify the vigor of the tree.
2. To keep the tree shapely and within bounds.
3. To make the tree more stocky.
4. To open the tree top to admit air and sunshine.
5. To reduce the struggle for existence in the tree top.
6. To remove dead or interfering branches.
7. To aid in stimulating the development of fruit buds.
8. To thin the fruit.
9. To make thorough spraying possible.
10. To facilitate the harvesting of the fruit.

Tree Pruning.

Some people fall into the mistake of supposing that every tree needs pruning and spraying, but such is not the case. It is for you to decide whether your tree needs pruning and for others to decide whether their trees and shrubs need spraying.

PROPAGATION OF STRAWBERRY PLANTS



Strawberry Crop Grown Under Hedgerow System—Plenty of Sunlight Permitted to Get to the Plants.

The strawberry is the most valuable of the small fruit crops grown in the United States. It is estimated in the United States Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin No. 664 that the production of strawberries in 1909 was valued at \$18,000,000, fully three-fourths of the total valuation of all small fruits produced. This valuation was based on commercial areas, and did not include the small home garden patches, which were probably nearly double that value. The average yield of strawberries per acre for the whole country in 1909 was a little less than 1,800 quarts, and the farm value about \$125 per acre.

The bulletin mentioned above deals primarily with the growing of strawberries on a commercial scale in the South, but the main points, of course, are also applicable to the small garden patch. The states south of the Potomac and Ohio rivers and east of the Mississippi, together with Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, produced in 1909 about one-fourth of the total crop of the United States.

Strawberry beds are often neglected soon after the harvest, but in order to secure good returns the bed should be cared for the year around. This series of articles treats a number of phases of strawberry culture, starting with the propagation of the plants, selection of the soil, a discussion of the three systems of planting, the renewing of old beds and the keeping of the field in good mechanical condition, as well as supplying it with plant food.

The strawberry is propagated commercially by runners from old plants. The runner first forms leaves, then takes root. This young plant receives nourishment from the mother plant until it is capable of self-support, when the runner dies. The new plant, as soon as it is well established, often sends out runners and forms other plants. These young plants that have not produced fruit are the ones used for setting new plantations.

Propagation by seed is never resorted to except for the production of new varieties, since no one can foretell what kind of fruit will be produced by a seedling plant. All new varieties, however, come from seed, either through normal variation in the seedlings or through variation induced by crossing two distinct varieties.

When two varieties are crossed for the purpose of combining their desirable qualities, the resulting seedlings will show every combination of characters, with perhaps a few possessing the desired characters of both parents. In practice, however, most new varieties come from seeds the parentage of which is not known.

While strawberries will grow on nearly all types of soil, a sandy or gravelly loam gives the best results. Plant food can be supplied by the addition of fertilizers, but the physical condition of the soil can only be modified with difficulty by cultivation, drainage and the addition of humus. The time of ripening can be influenced to some extent by selecting soils and exposures which force or retard maturity. A light, well-drained soil with a southern or eastern exposure will hasten the maturity of the berries, while heavy moist soils with a northern exposure will tend to make the crop late. Heavy mulching will also delay ripening.

Manure does not contain sufficient phosphoric acid and potash, and for that reason it should be supplemented by the use of commercial fertilizers rich in these elements.

Stable or barnyard manure is the best fertilizer for strawberries, because it furnishes both plant food and humus; but manure containing weed seed should be avoided. The best way to enrich strawberry land is to apply manure to the crop preceding the strawberries, in order that it may decompose and become well incorporated with the soil and so that most of the weed seeds will have germinated by the time the plants are set. If manure is to be applied the season the plants are set, only well-rotted manure should be used. After the land has been plowed the manure should be spread broadcast at the rate of ten to twenty tons per acre, depending upon the fertility of the soil, and harrowed in.

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The soil for strawberries should be well supplied with organic matter (humus) in a well-decomposed state. Many growers believe that new land is essential for good results, but if old soils are well supplied with organic matter they will yield as large crops as the new soils. The main difference between old and new soils is in the supply of humus and the mechanical condition due to the presence or absence of humus. The soil should be well drained, but should hold moisture during dry weather. Organic matter in a well-decomposed state in the soil makes it retentive of moisture. In sandy soils the organic matter fills up the spaces between the soil particles and checks evaporation, while in clay soils it prevents the soil from running together and baking and thereby prevents excessive loss of moisture by capillarity and evaporation.

A soil containing large quantities of nitrogen should be avoided, as such a soil will produce a heavy, dense growth of foliage at the expense of fruit. Weeds will be more troublesome and the fruit will not ripen as evenly on soil of this type.

Few soils that are adapted to strawberry growing are rich enough to produce large crops of fruit without the addition of manures or fertilizers of some kind.

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